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the reaction of the whole cortex, hence we attend to nothing for really objective reasons.

A word or two is necessary in regard to the translation. It is unfortunate that we should not have had this scholarly and suggestive book in its native English, for the French version is not always clear and is occasionally incorrect. To mention only two examples of the latter fact, when Dr. Pillsbury speaks of 'the mood of the moment' as among the subjective conditions of attention, 'le mode du moment' is meaningless as a translation. When he refers to "Stout's 'tendency towards an end,'" meaning the principle thus designated by Stout, there is an ominous suggestion in the translators' 'la tendance de Stout vers une fin'!

MARGARET FLOY WASHBURN.

Vassar College.

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## PSYCHIATRICAL LITERATURE.

By ISADOR H. CORIAT, M. D.

*Les Écrits et Les Dessins dans les Maladies Nerveuses et Mentales*  
par J. ROQUES DE FURSAC. Masson et Cie., Paris, 1905. pp. 306.

The value of speech and writing as a diagnostic adjunct to the study of neurology and psychiatry, has been emphasized during the last year by the monographs of Köster and Liebmann, the former relating to graphological disorders without any effort at discussion, the latter to stenographic samples of special disturbances of language. Roques de Fursac, however, has given us a comprehensive and readable treatise on this important subject, although he enters into dogmatic and, at times, tedious discussions. According to him the clinical description of the disorders of writing comprises two points: first, in the material execution of the writing, in its totality, direction and form of lines and the form and dimensions of the letters; secondly, the content of the writing, or the ideas expressed or reproduced by the writer. The study of the first is called caligraphy, of the second psychography. All psychic symptoms, excitements, depression, intellectual enfeeblement, modify the characteristics of the handwriting. The elementary caligraphic disorders relate to the direction and form of the lines, and the direction, dimensions and form of the letters. There is postulated the existence of a special graphomotor centre in the second left frontal convolution, disturbances in this centre giving rise to agraphia and paragaphia. Other symptoms that may arise in various nervous and mental disorders are omission, impossibility of copying, false syntax, substitutions, transpositions, additions, graphic incoherence, echo-graphia, and graphic stereotypy and impulsions. The illustrations are excellent and include samples of writing in paralysis agitans, exophthalmic goitre, chorea, tabes, multiple sclerosis, writer's cramp, the various stages of epilepsy and general paralysis, organic dementia, dementia præcox, acute and chronic alcoholism, various confusional and delirious states, manic-depressive insanity, melancholia, neurasthenia, hysteria, idiocy, imbecility and paranoic states. Especially well shown is the tremor of delirium tremens. One important symptom of katatonia, namely the capitalization of the first letter of each word, seems to have been unobserved by the author. The drawings are very elaborate productions and mostly of the mystic, paranoic type.